Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1 (currently amended): A method for induction of articles onto one or more of a plurality of transport units having side by side article support capability, the transport units being movable along a continuous conveying path, said method comprising:

providing at least one induct for loading articles onto the transport units;

feeding articles to said at least one induct without respect to a destination of the articles and moving articles along said at least one induct toward the transport units in the order in which the articles were fed to said at least one induct, the articles including blocked articles that are arranged on the induct in a manner that will cause at least a partial blocking condition;

determining a destination of the articles at said at least one induct;

loading the articles from said at least one induct to the transport units, the articles including blocked articles on a respective induct being loaded to the transport units in the order in which the articles are fed to said respective induct; and

resolving at least partial blocking conditions between the articles, said at least partial blocking conditions comprising an interference between two articles based on the destination of the two articles and the side of the conveying path or transport unit at which the two articles are positioned.

2 (previously presented): A method for induction of articles onto one or more of a plurality of transport units having side by side article support capability, the transport units being movable along a continuous conveying path, said method comprising:

providing at least one induct for loading articles onto the transport units, wherein providing at least one induct includes providing at least two inducts for loading articles onto the transport units from opposite sides of the conveying path;

feeding articles to said at least one induct without respect to a destination of the articles and moving articles along said at least one induct toward the transport units in the order in which the articles were fed to said at least one induct;

determining a destination of articles at said at least one induct;

loading articles from said at least one induct to the transport units; and

resolving at least partial blocking conditions between the articles, said at least partial blocking conditions comprising an interference between two articles based on the destination of the two articles and the side of the conveying path or transport unit at which the two articles are positioned.

3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein, in response to a full blocking condition, whereby the destinations of two articles are at opposite sides of the conveying path from the respective inducts of the articles, said method includes:

determining an induction priority for each of said inducts of the articles; and

resolving the full blocking condition by loading one of the articles and delay loading of the other of the articles as a function of the induction priority of said inducts.

4 (original): The method of claim 3 including:

determining a last minute throughput value for each of said inducts in response to the induction priorities for said inducts being equal; and

resolving said full blocking condition by loading one of the articles as a function of the induction priority and the last minute throughput value of the inducts.

5 (original): The method of claim 1 further including providing at least two discharge ports at opposite sides of the conveying path for receiving articles at their destinations.

6 (original): The method of claim 1 including resolving said at least partial blocking conditions by loading articles as a function of the destination and said blocking conditions of the articles to limit unloading of either of the articles remote from their respective destination.

7 (original): The method of claim 1 including resolving said blocking conditions by loading articles as a function of the destinations of the articles and said blocking conditions to limit recirculation of articles around the conveying path.

8 (original): The method of claim 2 including:

providing at least one reinduction station along at least one side of the conveying path, said at least one reinduction station being operable to receive articles from said transport units and to reinduct articles onto said transport units.

9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein resolving blocking conditions includes resolving said blocking conditions by unloading articles loaded onto a transport unit to said at least one reinduction station and reloading articles from said at least one reinduction station onto a transport unit as a function of the blocking condition and destination of articles loaded onto said transport unit.

10 (original): The method of claim 8 including providing at least one reinduction station downstream from said at least one induct and upstream of the destinations of the articles, said method including resolving said blocking conditions as a function of the destinations of the articles and an availability of said at least one reinduction station.

11 (original): The method of claim 10 including:

loading articles onto both sides of a respective one of the transport units; and

resolving said blocking conditions by unloading one of the articles from one side of the transport unit at said at least one reinduction station in response to a full or partial blocking condition between the articles.

12 (original): The method of claim 1 including determining a recirculation status of the system and resolving said blocking conditions as a function of the recirculation status.

13 (original): The method of claim 1 including determining an upstream destination of the respective destinations for first and second articles and resolving said blocking conditions between the first and second articles as a function of the upstream destination.

14 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the transport units include side by side article supports which are independently operable to load, unload or transfer articles.

15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the article supports comprise side by side carrier belts at each of the transport units.

16 (currently amended): A method for induction of articles onto one or more of a plurality of transport units having side by side article support capability, the transport units being movable along a continuous conveying path, said method comprising:

providing at least two inducts for loading articles onto the transport units;

feeding articles to said at least two inducts without respect to a destination of the articles and moving articles along said at least two inducts toward the transport units in the order in which the articles were fed to said at least two inducts, the articles including articles that are arranged on the inducts in a manner that will cause at least a partial blocking condition;

determining a destination of the articles at each of said at least two inducts; and

loading the articles from said at least two inducts to the transport units in a manner that avoids at least partial blocking conditions between the articles, the articles being loaded from a respective one of said inducts in the order in which the articles are fed to the respective one of said at least two inducts, said at least partial blocking conditions comprising an interference between two articles based on the destination of the two articles and the side of the conveying path or transport unit at which the two articles are positioned.

17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein loading articles includes loading and delay loading articles onto the transport units.

18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein loading and delay loading of articles includes loading and delay loading of articles as a function of an induction priority status of said at least two inducts.

19 (original): The method of claim 16 including providing at least one reinduction station downstream from said at least two inducts and upstream of the destinations of the articles, said method including resolving said blocking conditions as a function of the destinations of the articles and an availability of said at least one reinduction station.

20 (original): The method of claim 19 including:

loading articles onto both sides of a respective one of the transport units; and

resolving said blocking conditions by unloading one of the articles from one side of the transport unit at said at least one reinduction station in response to a full or partial blocking condition between the articles.

21 (original): The method of claim 16 including determining a recirculation status of the system and resolving said blocking conditions as a function of the recirculation status.

22 (previously presented): A method for induction of articles onto one or more of a plurality of transport units having side by side article support capability, the transport units being movable along a continuous conveying path, said method comprising:

providing at least two inducts for loading articles onto the transport units, wherein providing at least two inducts includes providing at least one induct for loading articles onto the transport units at each side of the conveying path;

feeding articles to said at least two inducts without respect to a destination of the articles and moving articles along said at least two inducts toward the transport units in the order in which the articles were fed to said at least two inducts;

determining a destination of articles at each of said at least two inducts;

loading articles from said at least two inducts to the transport units in a manner that avoids at least partial blocking conditions between the articles, said at least partial blocking

conditions comprising an interference between two articles based on the destination of the two articles and the side of the conveying path or transport unit at which the two articles are positioned.

23 (original): The method of claim 22 including providing at least two discharge stations at opposite sides of the conveying path for unloading articles from the transport units.

24 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the transport units include side by side article supports which are independently operable to load, unload or transfer articles.

25 (original): The method of claim 24, wherein the article supports comprise side by side carrier belts at each of the transport units.

26-89 (canceled).